

Serial No. 10/626,149

Filed: July 24, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-56 are presently pending in the application. Claim 56 was added to claim additional subject matter described in the specification in at least paragraph 44. Claim 56 is drawn to subject matter indicated in the restriction requirement as describing identified Group II. Applicant respectfully requests further examination on the merits in view of the amendment to the claims, and the following remarks

Election/Restriction Requirement

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121, election to of one of the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention was required:

Group I described by Claims 1-9, 15-18, and 34-37

Group II described by Claims 10-14, 19-33, 38, 39, and 47-55

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects with traverse Group II for further prosecution on the merits.

Applicant's election is with traverse for the following reasons:

Subclass 123 is directed to subject matter "wherein the converter includes a semiconductor device." None of Claims 1-9, 15-18, and 34-37 describe a semiconductor device. In addition, Applicant's specification does not limit the claimed invention to semi-conductor devices. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the classification.

Subclass 65 is directed to subject matter "wherein a single current conversion is effected simultaneously by a plurality of converters." Claim 1, for example, describes a first boost converter and a second boost converter that are configured to receive an input voltage, and

Page 12 of 14

Serial No. 10/626,149

Filed: July 24, 2003

supply a boost voltage, and thus may arguably be construed as a plurality of converters. Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of the classification.

In the restriction requirement, both Group I and Group II include independent claims and dependent claims. Some of the dependent claims identified as being in Group I or Group II depend from independent claims identified as being in the other Group (Claims 10-14, Claims 38-39, Claim 56). As is well known, a dependent claim includes all the limitations of the claim(s) from which it depends. Accordingly, examination of a dependent claim inherently requires examination of the claim(s) from which it depends. As described in MPEP 803, one of the criteria for proper Requirement for Restriction is that there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is required. Based on Applicant's election with traverse of Group II, examination of non-elected independent Claim 1 is necessary to examine elected new Claim 56, and examination of non-elected independent Claim 34 is necessary to examine elected Claims 38-39. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that there is no serious burden on the Examiner and restriction should not be required.

Claim 17 was indicated as being drawn to Group I, and describes a bridge rectifier configured to provide a rectified AC input voltage. Group II is drawn to class 363, subclass 65. Subclass 65 describes conversion from A.C. to D.C. as a requirement of the subclass. Accordingly, Applicant believes that Claim 17 should be indicated as drawn to Group II.

Claim 18 was indicated as being drawn to Group I, and describes a synchronous rectifier configured to supply a rectified AC input voltage. Group II is drawn to class 363, subclass 65. Subclass 65 describes conversion from A.C. to D.C. Accordingly, Applicant believes that Claim 17 should be indicated as drawn to Group II.

Claim 37 was indicated as being drawn to Group I, and describes an output stage power converter, which is described on page 2 of the restriction requirement as part of an example of

Page 13 of 14

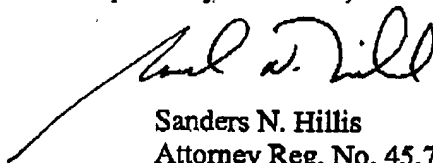
Serial No. 10/626,149

Filed: July 24, 2003

Group II. Accordingly, Applicant believes that Claim 37 should be indicated as drawn to Group II.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the restriction requirement and examination on the merits of at least the claims indicated as drawn to Group II and new Claim 56, which is also drawn to Group II. Should the Examiner deem a telephone conference to be beneficial in expediting examination and/or allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Sanders N. Hillis
Attorney Reg. No. 45,712
Attorney for Applicant

SNH/bal

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
CUSTOMER NO. 27879
Telephone: 317-636-0886
Facsimile: 317-634-6701